

Claims

1. A method for associating metadata with captured images, comprising:
5 an image capture device receiving the metadata from an external source;
capturing an image with the image capture device, and
the image capture device associating the captured image with the
metadata, wherein
the metadata is received prior to capturing the image.
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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the image capture device receives the
metadata by way of a wireless interface.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the image capture device receives the
15 metadata at a public venue, and wherein the metadata is associated with the
public venue.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the image capture device receives the
metadata by way of a wireline connection and wherein the external source is a
20 personal computer that accepts inputs from a user.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the metadata includes a plurality of
labels, and wherein the method additionally comprises a user of the image
capture device selecting which of the plurality of labels to associate with the
25 image captured by the image capture device.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the metadata includes an audio label.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the metadata includes a graphics
30 object.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the graphics object is an image previously captured by the image capture device.

5 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the image captured by the image capture device is a photograph.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the image captured by the image capture device is an audio recording.

10 11. An image capture device, comprising:
an interface that receives a plurality of metadata labels from an external source prior to the image capture device capturing an image;
a memory that stores the image; and
a processor that assigns one or more of the plurality of metadata labels
15 to the image under the control of a user of the image capture device.

12. The image capture device of claim 11, further comprising an optical subsystem that acquires a photographic image and stored the image in a memory.

20 13. The image capture device of claim 11, further comprising an audio subsystem that acquires an audio image and writes the audio image to a memory.

25 14. The image capture device of claim 11, wherein at least one of the plurality of metadata labels is a text label.

15. The image capture device of claim 11, wherein at least one of the plurality of metadata labels is an audio label.

30 16. The image capture device of claim 11, wherein at least one of the plurality of metadata labels is a graphics object.

17. The image capture device of claim 11, wherein the external source transmits the plurality of metadata labels, and wherein the plurality of metadata labels pertains to a public venue proximate with the image capture device.

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18. The image capture device of claim 11, further comprising a selector that enables a user to change the plurality of metadata labels to be associated with an image.

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19. The image capture device of claim 11, further comprising an audio sensor that recognizes a voice input as corresponding to a certain one of the plurality of metadata labels.

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20. The image capture device of claim 11, wherein the interface receives at least one metadata label and associates the at least one metadata label with a first user of the image capture device, and associates at least one other metadata label with a second user of the image capture device.

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21. The image capture device of claim 11, wherein the external source is a second image capture device.

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22. The image capture device of claim 21, wherein the processor executes a conflict-resolution algorithm that assigns metadata labels to a captured image based on the definition of the metadata label.

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23. An image capture device, comprising:
means for receiving and storing a plurality of metadata labels from an external source;
means for capturing a plurality of images in memory;
means for automatically associating at least some of the plurality of stored metadata labels with at least some of the plurality of images captured in memory.

24. The image capture device of claim 23, additionally comprising means for selecting at least some of the plurality of metadata labels to be associated with at least some of the plurality of the images captured in memory.

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25. The image capture device of claim 24, wherein the means for selecting at least some of the plurality of metadata labels is a thumbwheel.

26. The image capture device of claim 24, wherein the means for selecting at least some of the plurality of metadata labels is a touchpad.

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27. The image capture device of claim 23, wherein the means for receiving and storing a plurality of metadata labels includes a wireless interface, and wherein the external source is a public venue transmitter that conveys a wireless signal to the image capture device.

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28. The image capture device of claim 27, wherein the wireless signal conveys the plurality of metadata labels to the image capture device, and wherein the image capture device detects the wireless signal and associates at least some of the plurality of metadata labels with at least some of the plurality of images captured in memory upon the detection of the signal.

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29. The image capture device of claim 23, wherein the plurality of metadata labels includes an audio label.

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30. The image capture device of claim 23, wherein the plurality of metadata labels includes a graphics object.

31. The image capture device of claim 23, further comprising means for loading a plurality of metadata labels into a second image capture device.

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32. The image capture device of claim 31, further comprising means for assigning a metadata label to a captured image based on the definition of the metadata label in the event that a metadata label from the first image capture device conflicts with a metadata label from the second image capture device.

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33. In an image capture device, a method for associating captured images with metadata, comprising:
receiving the metadata from an external source;
capturing an image, after receiving the metadata; and
10 associating the metadata with the captured image, wherein
the captured image automatically inherits the metadata when the image is captured.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the receiving step further
15 comprises receiving the metadata over a communications channel that makes use of at least one wire.

35. The method of claim 33, wherein the receiving step further
comprises receiving the metadata over a wireless communications channel.
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36. The method of claim 33, wherein the metadata is transmitted to the image capture device from a transmitter that conveys information about a particular venue.

25 37. The method of claim 33, additionally comprising receiving commands from a user to modify the metadata associated with the captured image.

38. The method of claim 33, additionally comprising receiving a voice command, wherein the voice command is used by the image capture device to
30 select the metadata associated with the captured image.

39. The method of claim 33, wherein the associating step includes assigning metadata to the captured image by way of the captured image belonging to a collection and the metadata has been assigned to the collection.

- 5 40. A method for associating metadata with captured images, comprising:
- an image capture device receiving the metadata from a public venue transmitter;
- capturing an image with the image capture device, and
- 10 the image capture device associating the captured image with the metadata from the public venue transmitter.